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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

May 24, 2017

2017 MAY 30 AM 11: 04

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Ms. Kathleen Guith
Associate General Counsel - Enforcement
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

MUR # 7252

Re: FEC Complaint against the "Fire MacArthur Campaign"

Ms. Guith:

A group calling itself the "Fire MacArthur Campaign"¹ has recently raised and spent substantial funds without filing important disclosures with the Federal Election Commission or providing proper legal disclaimers on its advertising. I am filing this complaint, in the interest of public transparency, to request that the Commission investigate this group further.

Federal law requires any group that raises or spends more than \$1,000 to influence a federal election during a calendar year to register and report with the Commission as a political committee.² Separately, federal law mandates that printed public communications must display a legal disclaimer indicating who paid for the communication and whether a candidate authorized the communication.³ These and other pro-transparency rules are essential to our political system. As the U.S. Supreme Court has remarked, it is important to "provide the electorate with information' about the sources of election-related spending" so that that voters may "make informed choices in the political marketplace."⁴ If groups are allowed to flout reporting obligations and disclaimer requirements, for example, voters will lack the information they need to evaluate the political messages that they see and hear.

The "Fire MacArthur Campaign" has, according to its own website, raised more than five times the threshold that would trigger public disclosure registration and reports with the Commission.⁵ Because this group has refused to file public disclosure reports, though, it is uncertain whether this total represents all of its election-related fundraising and spending. Additionally, the "Fire MacArthur Campaign" has not indicated on a highway billboard⁶ it has purchased whether the advertisement was authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee,

¹ The "Fire MacArthur Campaign" appears to be led by Debra Lonsdale at 123 Granville Drive, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-2810.

² 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.5(a), 102.1(d).

³ 11 C.F.R. § 110.11(b)(3), (c)(2).

⁴ Citizens United v. Fed. Election Comm'n, 558 U.S. 310, 367 (2010) (quoting Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1, 66 (1976); McCannell v. Fed. Election Comm'n, 540 U.S. 93, 197 (2003)).

⁵ "Fire MacArthur Campaign" Website (accessed May 23, 2017) (indicating the total amount fundraised at \$5,236), at <https://www.gofundme.com/3gnxu2g>.

⁶ A picture of this billboard is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

in clear violation of federal disclaimer requirements. New Jersey voters deserve more information about this shadowy group and whether its activities involve others.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully request that the Commission open an immediate investigation into the activities of the so-called "Fire MacArthur Campaign" so that the rights and interests of New Jersey voters will be protected.

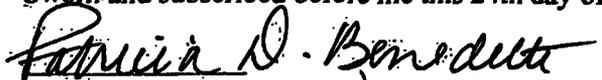
Sincerely,



Josh Foote

Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Sworn and subscribed before me this 24th day of May 2017.



Notary Public in and for New Jersey
My commission expires 2-17-20

Patricia D. Benedetti
Notary Public, State of New Jersey
My Commission Expires 2-17-20

Enclosure

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